

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM

NR Eligible: yes ___
no ___

Property Name: Bob-O-Del Gun Club Inventory Number: WO-583
Address: Assateague Island, Maryland City: _____ Zip Code: 21811
County: Worcester USGS Topographic Map: Whittington Point, MD
Owner: United States of America Is the property being evaluated a district? ___yes___
Tax Parcel Number: _____ Tax Map Number: _____ Tax Account ID Number: _____
Project: Hunting Lodge & Retention Properties Agency: US Department of the Interior, National Park Service
Site visit by MHT Staff: X no ___yes___ Name: _____ Date: _____
Is the property located within a historic district? ___yes___ X no

If the property is within a district

District Inventory Number: _____

NR-listed district ___yes___ Eligible district ___yes___ District Name: _____

Preparer's Recommendation: Contributing resource ___yes___ ___no___ Non-contributing but eligible in another context ___

If the property is not within a district (or the property is a district)

Preparer's Recommendation: Eligible ___yes___ X no

Criteria: ___A___ ___B___ ___C___ ___D___ Considerations: ___A___ ___B___ ___C___ ___D___ ___E___ ___F___ ___G___ None

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Historic Context Study of Waterfowl Hunting Camps and Related Properties within Assateague Island National Seashore, MD & VA. Eschelman, R.E. and P.A. Russell. 2004

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)

Physical Description of Structures: The Bob-O-Del Gun Club was constructed from two former shanty boats (approximately 15' x 35' each) hauled ashore and placed on pilings, with an enclosed common area of approximately 18' x 20' located between and connecting the boats. The date of construction at the current site is unknown, but occurred prior to at least 1937, and possibly as early as 1917. The structure is connected to a pier/dock complex and three wood frame outbuildings by a network of boardwalks.

Prepared by: Carl S. Zimmerman

Date Prepared: 11/28/2011

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended ___ Eligibility not recommended X

Criteria: ___A___ ___B___ ___C___ ___D___ Considerations: ___A___ ___B___ ___C___ ___D___ ___E___ ___F___ ___G___ None

Comments:

Integrity has been compromised by deterioration

Jonathan Sayer
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

8/8/12
Date

Bluntz
Reviewer, NR Program

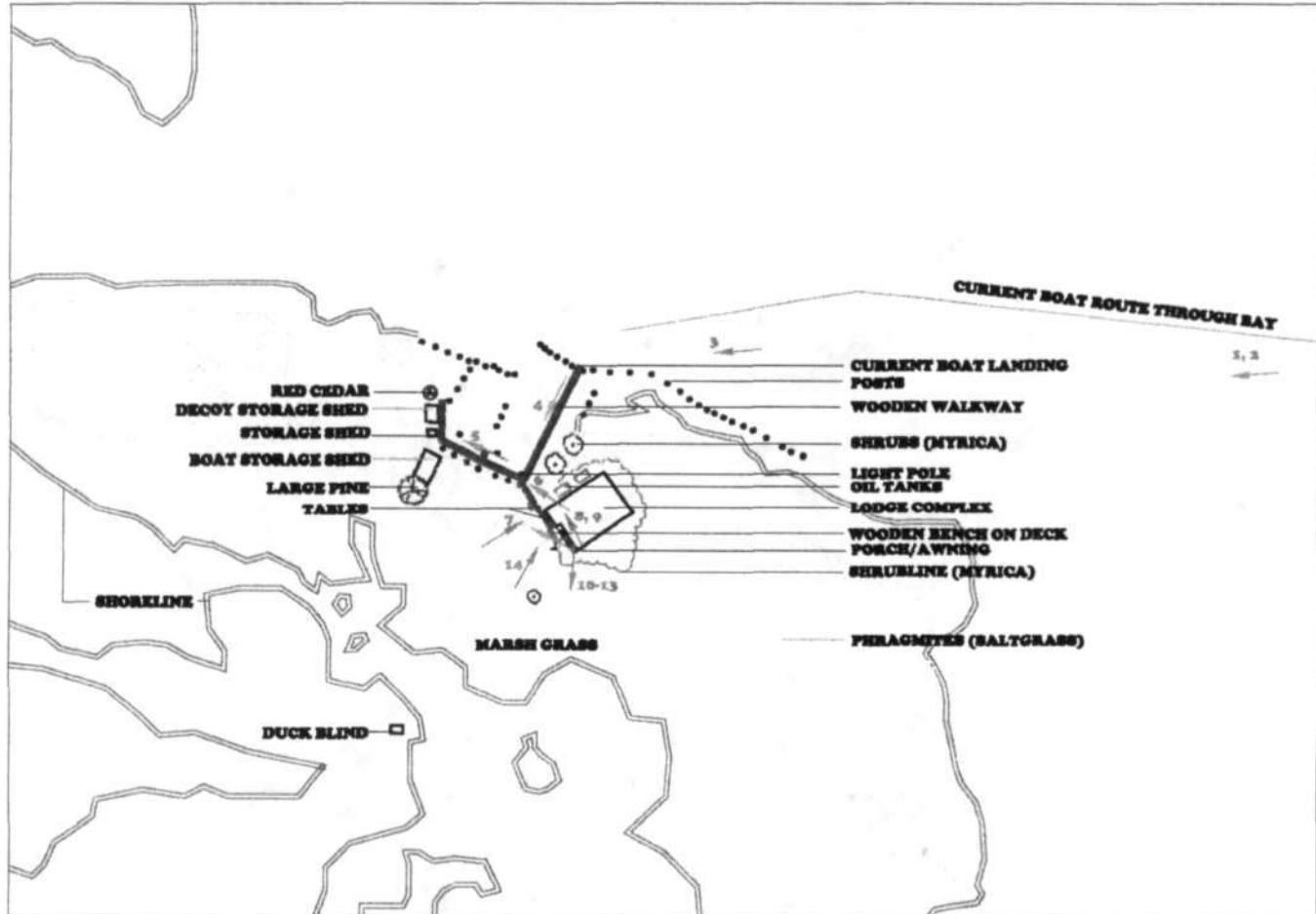
6/9/12
Date

2012 01771

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Continuation Sheet No. 1

Existing Conditions Map



SOURCES:

1997 Aerial photography
Field observation

SHRUB/TREE LINE EVERGREEN BUILDING
SHORELINE POST OR POLE PHOTOGRAPH DIRECTION & NUMBER



BOB-O-DELL HUNT CLUB LODGE EXISTING CONDITIONS MAP

Hunting Lodge Properties Study-Annapolis Island National Seashore
National Park Service-Philadelphia Support Office
August 2000

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM**

Continuation Sheet No. 2

Brief History

Bob-O-Del Gun Club (also called Bob-O-Del Gun Club, Inc.; Bob-O-Del, Inc. after 1970; also possibly Middlemoor and General Motors Club; sometimes also spelled Bobodell or Bobodel)

Bob-O-Del Gun Club was used as a waterfowl hunting club from at least 1937. Members bought shares in the club. Deed references frequently use the term "hunting lodge" in their description. The property was described in 1972 as "mainly for the basis of a private club, which affords rather good gunning in season, and a 'get-away' place the year around. . . Hagan's Island . . . the superior gunning site of the entire holdings . . . affords a very good hunting facility . . ."

Bob-O-Del Gun Club is named after Robert O'Dell, a surveyor. Bob-O-Del Gun Club began as a corporate-type hunting facility by members of General Motors. It cost \$80,000 to establish the club. It was sold for \$5,000 about ten years later and was then used as a membership waterfowl hunting club from at least November 16, 1937, when it was incorporated as the Bob-O-Del Gun Club. Each member paid \$500 for a share and paid another \$500 each year for maintenance. Mit Collins, John D. Marsh and William Duke were such members in 1947. A sign on the club gives the dates 1917-1992 suggesting the property was used for waterfowl hunting purposes since at least this time. A scow with enclosed cabin named *Queen Mary* was used to take hunters to and from the club. Bob-O-Del Gun Club leased a hunting camp site on Middlemoor Island in 1951 (see also other waterfowl hunting camps on Assateague Island in the foregoing section). The property was acquired by Norman C. Calhoun, Jr., in 1951 and the corporation forfeited on October 31, 1952, with failure to file the required annual report with the Maryland Department of Assessment and Taxation. The property was conveyed to Norman E. Calhoun in 1957. Bob-O-Del Gun Club leased North Island during the waterfowl season of 1967-8. Norman E. and Sallie L. Calhoun sold the property to Bob-O-Del, Inc. for \$10.00 in 1970. Bob-O-Del, Inc. had revived and reinstated a charter in the same year with stockholders. The property was sold to the US Government in 1973. The corporation was dissolved in 1975. At that time Charles R. "Buddy" Jenkins was President, Paul Curtis Stokes, Jr., Secretary, and Richard C. Dupont, Jr., Treasurer. Visitors included numerous politicians, bankers and National Football League quarterback Johnny Unitas of Baltimore Colts fame.

The Bob-O-Del Gun Club incorporates two shantyboats, painted battleship gray, the hulls of which can be seen under the structure. These shantyboats were described in 1947 as follows:

The [shanty] boat on the left contains the galley and sleeps the guides. The boat on the right sleeps six members or guests. Inside all was shining white enamel, dustless surfaces, chintz curtains, silk-hemmed fleecy blankets and freshly ironed sheets. There was running water in the bathroom and a built-in tub, gas lights throughout, a sun deck on one end of each boat and a place to sit around a coal stove on the other.

When it became too expensive to maintain the two floating shantyboats they were dragged up on land and put on pilings. A living room approximately 18 by 20 feet was built in between and connecting the shantyboats. That is where the red felt-topped poker table and chairs were placed. A large mounted shark decorated the room. The living room fireplace, which anchored the lodge, is credited with saving the lodge from floating off its foundation during the storm of 1962. Originally the shantyboats were used as oyster watch houses to protect private oyster beds from oyster poachers. Individuals stayed in the watch houses twenty-four hours a day armed with shotguns and powerful lights. Nat Cole was the cook and Josh Bunting served as chief guide and caretaker at Bob-O-Del Gun Club. For his services, Bunting was given a share in the club. An African-American man named Julius also was once cooked here. Roland Earl "Fish" Powell and Turner Francis Cropper also served as guides here in 1953-4. Mitchell Parker, Josh Bunting, and Slick Bradford were guides in 1947. Bob-O-Del was apparently originally called Middlemoor which is the name of the slough that runs in front of Bob-O-Del. It is known that a hunting camp called Middlemoor existed by that name near the Bob-O-Del site in 1926 and this was leased by Bob-O-Del in 1951. Bob-O-Del Gun Club is accessible only by water. Deep water access via Middlemoor "ditch" or slough is a benefit of Bob-O-Del which many of the other camps lacked. Thousands of bushels of oyster shell were dumped here to raise the land for construction of Bob-O-Del Gun Club to take advantage of this deep water access.

Excerpted from:

Eschelmann, R.E. and P.A. Russell. 2004. Historic Context Study of Waterfowl Hunting Camps and Related Properties within Assateague Island National Seashore, Maryland and Virginia. National Park Service, Berlin, MD.

WO-583

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Continuation Sheet No. 3

Eligibility Recommendation

The Bob-O-Del Gun Club was a private membership club where recreational waterfowl hunting was conducted on a recurring basis and, as such, the property is associated with the historic context of commercial and recreational hunting on Assateague Island. The property is one of the oldest hunting camps on Assateague and has a rich history and connections to many of the area's well known local families. As a corporate and then private membership club, the property was often used for entertaining guests. While the Club is known to have hosted a number of notable persons, none are believed to be significantly associated with the property. The property is located in a spectacular setting on a small marsh island adjacent to Assateague and is accessible only by water. As such, the property is isolated, and intimately connected to the natural waterfowling landscape of bay and marsh. The main club house is architecturally unique in that it was constructed from two former hunting shanty boats hauled ashore and connected together to form a large common area. Other components of the built landscape are typical and include wood walkways, a pier and boat dock, and storage sheds.

Because of its location, the Bob-O-Del property is extremely exposed to the elements and nearly all of the built features are in poor condition. The roof of the club house has been breached and, as a result, virtually all of the structural components (roof joists, ceiling, floor, floor joists, etc.) of the common area joining the two former shanty boats have been extensively damaged. The hulls of the two former shanty boats suffer from extensive rot, leaving minimal support and jeopardizing the building's overall structural integrity. Many other components of the building (both interior and exterior) including trim, siding, windows, and doors, suffer from varying degrees of rot, weathering, and/or insect damage. Some interior portions of the structure believed to be original to the shanty boats are, however, in fair condition and may have potential to yield information about the construction and use of the once common vessels used, in part, to construct the Club house.

Preservation work to salvage the overall structure and make it safe for some future use would require wholesale replacement of both structural and nonstructural elements. Because of the degree of damage and resultant loss of historic fabric, the integrity of the club house and other built features has been severely compromised, and possibly lost in entirety. As such, the ~~High-~~ *Bob-O-Del* ~~Winds Gun Club~~ is considered **ineligible** for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

W0-583

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM**

Continuation Sheet No. 4

Bibliography

Eschelman, R.E. and P.A. Russell. 2004. Historic Context Study of Waterfowl Hunting Camps and Related Properties within Assateague Island National Seashore, MD & VA. National Park Service. Berlin, MD. 103 pages.

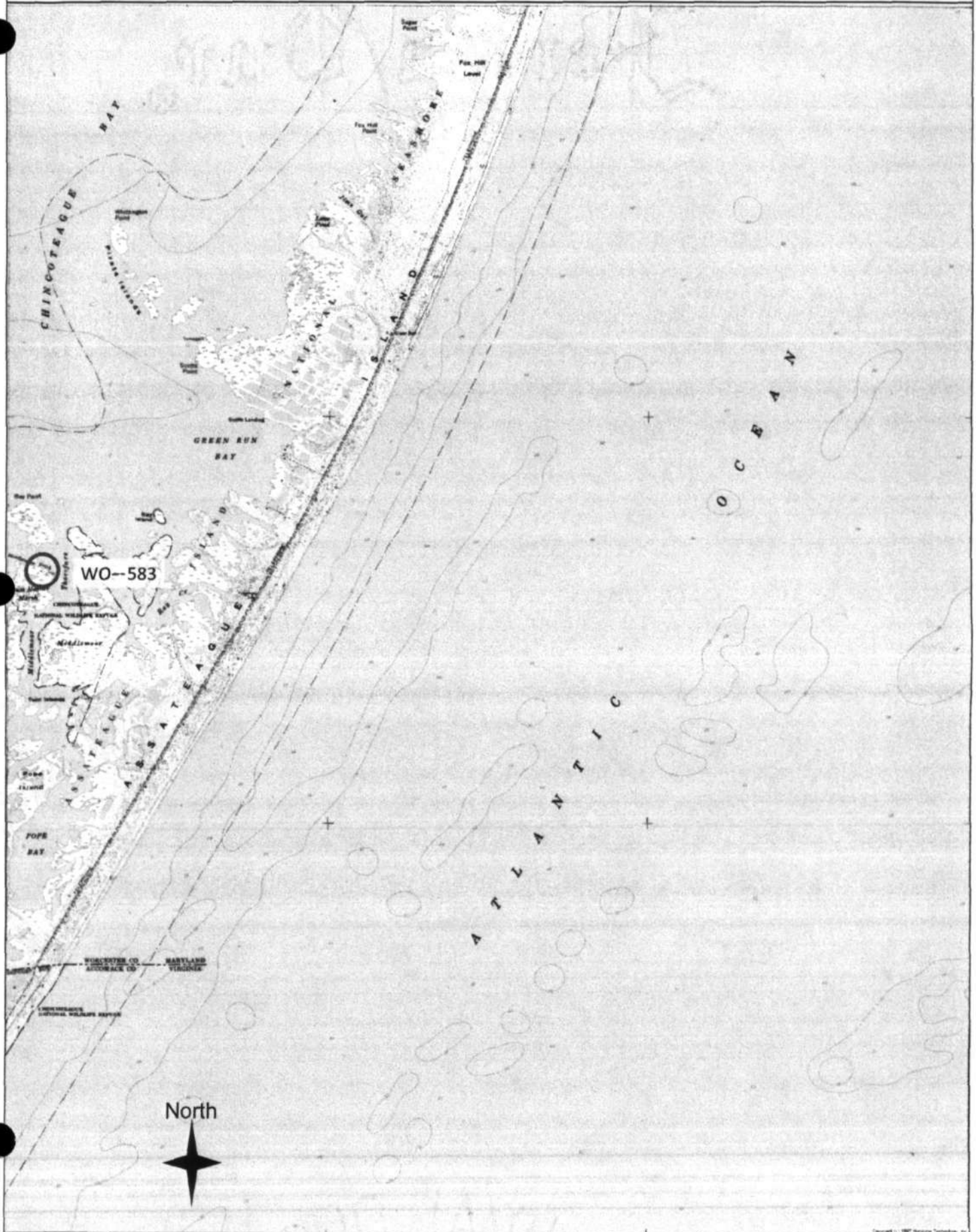
National Park Service. 2000. Cultural Landscape Field Survey, Hunting Lodge Properties Determination of Eligibility Study, Assateague Island National Seashore. Berlin, MD. 38 pages.

National Park Service. 2012. Deed and Land Record Files, Assateague Island National Seashore. Berlin, MD

WO--583 Bob-O-Del Gun Club

Assateague Island, Worcester County, Maryland

USGS Topographic Quadrangle -- Whittington Point



WO--583 Bob-O-Del Gun Club

Photograph Log

Image File Name	Image Description
WO-0583_2007-6-18_01.tif	Front of Lodge from south corner looking northeast
WO-0583_2007-6-18_02.tif	Front of Lodge from middle section looking northeast
WO-0583_2007-6-18_03.tif	Front of Lodge from middle section looking southwest
WO-0583_2007-6-18_04.tif	Side of Lodge from southwest corner looking northwest
WO-0583_2007-6-18_05.tif	Interior of bedroom in western section of Lodge
WO-0583_2007-6-18_06.tif	Walkway connecting Lodge to boat dock and storage sheds
WO-0583_2007-6-18_07.tif	Walkway connecting Lodge to boat dock and shed
WO-0583_2007-6-18_08.tif	Walkway leading from boat dock to Lodge

Notes:

All photographic prints created using Epson Claria ink and Epson Ultra Premium Photo Paper Glossy

Digital image files saved on Delkin Devices Archival Gold[®] CD-R (Phthalocyanine dye)



WO-583 Bob-O-Del Gun Club 1 of 8

Worcester County, MD

Photo by Andrew Roach, NPS

6/18/2007

Front of lodge from south corner looking
northeast

WO-0583_2007-6-18_01.TIF



WO-583 Bob-O-Del Gun Club

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Worcester County, MD

Photo by Andrew Roach, NPS

6/18/2007

Front of Lodge from middle section looking
north east

WO-0583_2007-6-18_02.TIF



WD-583 Bob-O-Acl Gun Club 3 of 8

Worcester County, MD

Photo by Andrew Roach, NPS

6/18/2007

Front of lodge from middle section looking
southwest

WD-0583_2007-6-18_03.TIF



WD-583 Bob-O-Ael Gun Club

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Worcester County, MD

Photo by Andrew Roach, NPS

6/18/2007

Side of lodge from southwest corner
looking northwest

WD-0583_2007-6-18_04.TIF



WO-583 Bob-O-DeL Gun Club 5 of 8

Worcester County, MD

Photo by Andrew Roach, NPS

6/18/2007

Interior of bedroom in western section
of lodge

WO-0583_2007-6-18_05.TIF



WD-583 Bob-O-DeL Gun Club

6 of 8

Worcester County, MD

Photo by Andrew Roach, NPS

6/18/2007

Walkway connecting lodge to boat dock
and storage sheds

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WO-583 Bob-O-Nel Gun Club 7 of 8

Worcester County, MD

Photo by Andrew Roach, NPS

6/18/2007

Walkway connecting lodge to boat dock
and shed

WO-0583_2007-6-18_07.TIF



WD-583 Bob-O-Acl Gun Club 8 of 8

Worcester County, MD

Photo by Andrew Roach, NPS

6/18/2007

Walkway Leading From boat dock to lodge

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